

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
FORT MYERS DIVISION

SANDRA BAKER,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No: 2:13-cv-838-FtM-38UAM

PFIZER INC.,

Defendant.

ORDER¹

This matter comes before the Court *sua sponte* on a jurisdictional review of the Complaint. ([Doc. #1](#)). The Plaintiff, Sandra Baker, pleads diversity jurisdiction. The amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00. The Complaint states that Plaintiff is a resident of Punta Gorda, Florida, and that Defendant is a corporation existing under the laws of incorporation of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in New York, New York. ([Doc. #1](#), ¶¶ 2, 3).

“Citizenship is equivalent to ‘domicile’ for purposes of diversity jurisdiction.” [Turner v. Pennsylvania Lumbermen’s Mut. Fire Ins. Co.](#), 2007 WL 3104930, *3-4 (M.D. Fla. Oct. 22, 2007) (citing [McCormick v. Aderholt](#), 293 F.3d 1254, 1257-58 (11th Cir. 2002)). A party’s “domicile,” rather than his or her residence, is determinative of citizenship for diversity jurisdiction. [Turner](#), 2007 WL 3104930 at *3-4 (citing [Jagiella v. Jagiella](#), 647

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F.2d 561, 563 (5th Cir. 1981); [Combee v. Shell Oil Co.](#), 615 F.2d 698, 700 (5th Cir. 1980). “Domicile” is not necessarily synonymous with “residence,” and “one can reside in one place, but be domiciled in another.” [Turner](#), 2007 WL 3104930 at *3-4 (citing [Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians v. Holyfield](#), 490 U.S. 30, 48, 109 S. Ct. 1597, 104 L. Ed. 2d 29 (1989)).

“A person's domicile is the place of his true, fixed, and permanent home and principal establishment, and to which he has the intention of returning whenever he is absent therefrom.” [Sunseri v. Macro Cellular Partners](#), 412 F.3d 1247, 1249 (11th Cir. 2005) (quotations and citations omitted). Once a person establishes domicile, it continues until the person establishes a new domicile, satisfying both the mental and physical requirements of domicile in a new state. [McDougald v. Jenson](#), 786 F.2d 1465, 1483 (11th Cir. 1986); [Mas v. Perry](#), 489 F.2d 1396, 1399 (5th Cir. 1974). The party invoking the court's jurisdiction bears the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, facts supporting the existence of federal jurisdiction. [McCormick](#), 293 F.3d at 1257. The factors considered in determining domicile include home ownership, driver's license, voting registration, location of family, location of business and where taxes are paid. [Turner](#), 2007 WL 3104930 at *3-4 (citing [Jaisinghani v. Capital Cities/ABC, Inc.](#), 973 F. Supp. 1450, 1453 (S.D. Fla. 1997)). While an individual's statements of intent are also considered in determining domicile, these subjective expressions “are usually accorded little weight when in conflict with the facts or when the question is close.” [Jaisinghani](#), 973 F. Supp. at 1453 (citing [Hendry v. Masonite Corp.](#), 455 F.2d 955, 956 (5th Cir. 1972)). No single factor is conclusive; rather, the Court looks to the “totality of the evidence.” [Jones v. Law Firm of Hill and Ponton](#), 141 F. Supp. 2d 1349, 1355 (M.D. Fla. 2001).

The Complaint pleads residency for the Plaintiff. Therefore, the Complaint fails to establish the Plaintiff's domicile for diversity of citizenship purposes. Thus, Plaintiff's Complaint will be dismissed without prejudice with leave to amend. Failure to comply with this Order may result in the case being dismissed without further notice for failure to establish this Court's subject matter jurisdiction.

Accordingly, it is now

ORDERED:

Plaintiff's Complaint ([Doc. #1](#)) is **DISMISSED without prejudice**. Plaintiff shall have up to and including **December 13, 2013** to file an amended complaint that properly alleges this Court's subject matter jurisdiction.

DONE and **ORDERED** in Fort Myers, Florida this 2nd day of December, 2013.


SHERI POLSTER CHAPPELL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies: All Parties of Record